

## IMAGING ELLIPSOMETRY

### Abstract of the Invention

5           An ellipsometer apparatus and method for use in providing an image of at  
least a portion of a sample includes an objective lens having a focal plane at which a  
sample plane of a sample is positioned. Linearly polarized light normal to the  
sample plane incident on the objective lens is provided, and the incident linearly  
polarized light is focused onto the sample. At least a portion of the focused incident  
10 polarized light is reflected by the sample resulting in reflected light. Spatial filtering  
is used to modify at least a portion of the incident or the reflected light. An analyzer  
portion is operable to generate polarization information based on the reflected light.

15

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER EL 542402675US  
DATE OF DEPOSIT: 16 OCTOBER 2000  
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER HAS BEEN DEPOSITED WITH THE  
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE "EXPRESS MAIL" POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE  
SERVICE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10 ON THE DATE INDICATED ABOVE AND IS ADDRESSED TO  
THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231  
PRINTED NAME JILL R. PRICE  
SIGNATURE Jill R Price